SUMMARY OF PART I OF THE WORKSHOP

By the Rapporteur: Anatoly Zoubanov

First of all, I think that all the participants share the view that the Workshop has been very useful. For the first time, the Population Division has combined an expert meeting with a workshop for country practitioners on issues of critical importance, the HIV/AIDS epidemic and adult mortality. The dialogue and exchanges between technical experts and Government officials, most of whom occupy posts of high responsibility in their countries, have been very valuable. I am sure that each

empirical data. More work is needed to ascertain whether the model, its inputs or the empirical data themselves are deficient.

This Workshop has shown that there are serious limitations to all models trying to measure adult mortality and maternal mortality, as well as child mortality in the context of AIDS. There is an urgent need to have usable real data from vital registration, although it will take a long time to come. In the interim, having appropriate questions appropr

a mortality crisis which is reflected in a reduction in life expectancy at birth between 1985-1990 and 1995-2000. Latin America as a whole has today a higher life expectancy at birth than Eastern Europe. So, our expectations for the future have changed, and we have more uncertainty regarding future mortality trends than before.

After the presentations on development and policy dimensions of AIDS, the participants agreed that HIV/AIDS creates grave development problems for countries with high prevalence, requiring policies to stop the spread of the epidemic. However, governments do not always translate their commitments into actions, often because of a lack of financial resources in the face of other pressing problems. Some participants noted that cultural conditions might play a big role in the non-adoption of protective behaviour in the face of AIDS.

Clearly, the course of the HIV/AIDS epidemic depends on how individuals, nations and the world respond to the HIV/AIDS threat today and tomorrow. As this Workshop has shown, part of that response involves better dissemination of the facts regarding the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Governments can use the power of the Internet to disseminate and exchange information related to the disease, its demographic impact, and the interventions that are being used to prevent infection or to treat and assist those affected by the disease. The discussion of the contents of selected AIDS web sites, developed in Africa, has helped to identify best practices and models of web communication and will aid the participants in developing their own sites.

In conclusion, I would like to note that, although this Workshop has focused mostly on the situation in Africa, it is clear that a similar type of activity would be useful for other regions, especially those in which HIV/AIDS is not yet as widespread as in Africa, so as to raise awareness about the importance of stopping the further spread of the disease.

I expect that one of the most useful aspects of this Workshop will be the exchange of information about the specific situation of each of the countries that the country participants represent and about the programmes and policy responses that have been adopted in each of those countries. This exchange, which has only started over these four days, will continue during the next two days when our African colleagues will continue their discussions.